

THE THEATRES

SMITH'S.

Verdi's magnificent opera, "Il Trovatore," will be rendered this evening by the Boston Opera Singers, and there should be a very large attendance, for nothing but the warmest praise has come to us regarding the work of the company. At Waterbury last evening, the company achieved a wonderful success, curtain calls and encores with number greeting the efforts of the principals and the chorus. This will be one of the leading musical events of the season, if advance reports are to be relied upon, and the theatre should be filled to the doors.

"Thorns and Orange Blossoms" is a very taking title, and it is a dramatization of Bertha M. Clay's extensively read book of the same name. As a scenic production nothing has been omitted that would lend to its attractiveness and the company is of the better sort in detail. The smallest parts being in thoroughly competent and experienced hands, and Miss Lucie Gardner heads the company. "Thorns and Orange Blossoms" comes to-morrow and Saturday with daily matinees.

One of the most artistic combinations ever brought together will make its appearance here next Monday evening, the Ben Greet players, numbering some forty people, with the entire Russian Symphony Orchestra, of New York City, comprising fifty musicians in a magnificent representation of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." This performance of Shakespeare's masterpiece with Mendelssohn's music is an artistic event which should make a landmark in the musical and dramatic history of this city. When the magnitude of this undertaking is considered, and it is realized that this presentation will enlist the artistic efforts of two distinct organizations, each of which as a rule is able to draw very large audiences to its individual performances, it will be realized of what interest and moment this will be to all circles—the musical, literary and those who seek amusement and entertainment before in dramatic or musical history has a symphony orchestra rendered the incidental music to a theatrical performance, excepting on a few special occasions in Mr. Greet, and which were marked by the greatest success and wonderful enthusiasm to audiences of several thousand people at each performance.

Next Tuesday afternoon, Miss Clara Turner and an able company will begin a five days' engagement, playing both afternoons and evenings. By persistent effort and a determination to enhance her value to the stage, Miss Turner, in her own right, has made the repertoire stars. Her versatility is almost unparalleled; youth, age, poverty, wealth, rank, obscurity, are alike to her. Those who have seen her in her own characters will attest to her versatility and interest her appearance in "A Modern Lady Godiva," the new play with which Miss Amelia Bingham has allied St. Louis. Other plays in which Miss Turner will appear are "Divorçons" by Sardou; "A Girl's Best Friend," a romantic story introducing Miss Turner's posies; "The Days of '61," a Southern love story; "Why Men Tempt Women"; "Jane and Her Teddy Bears," and others.

POLI'S

For next week Manager Poli has booked Miss Florence Hamilton in her sensational and realistic race track sketch, "The Queen of the Turf." To get Miss Hamilton to come to this city, her native place, Manager Poli used every effort. Her many friends here will welcome her appearance in vaudeville. She is not only a talented public school in this city but since going into the stage has always manifested an interest in the city's growth and welfare from the fact that she is a Bridgeport taxpayer. With Miss Hamilton are associated J. Frank Burke, for years a leading man in legitimate theatricals; Miss Ina McConn, Arnold Davis, Pierce Kingsley, and others.

Another great feature for next week's bill will be John Hyams and Lela McIntyre, now completing a record-making run in the vaudeville houses of New York. Hyams & McIntyre present their "Hawthorne" famous "Quakeress" in the headline position at Poli's all next week. To vaudeville lovers, who have followed the great "Hawthorne" season, Hyams & McIntyre will be known sufficiently well without any additional introduction. The Meredith Sisters, the girls who made "Hawthorne" famous, and who are just returned from a successful European tour, will present in their matchless manner a singing, dancing, comic and comedy sketch entitled "Girls of Many Countries." Will H. Fox, pianist, will present his international success "Paddy's Irish," as given for several consecutive months at the Palace Theatre, London, and over 5,000 times in the leading vaudeville houses of Europe and America. Lila Mills and Elsie, the famous "Hawthorne" girls, will be known sufficiently well without any additional introduction. The Meredith Sisters, the girls who made "Hawthorne" famous, and who are just returned from a successful European tour, will present in their matchless manner a singing, dancing, comic and comedy sketch entitled "Girls of Many Countries." Will H. Fox, pianist, will present his international success "Paddy's Irish," as given for several consecutive months at the Palace Theatre, London, and over 5,000 times in the leading vaudeville houses of Europe and America. Lila Mills and Elsie, the famous "Hawthorne" girls, will be known sufficiently well without any additional introduction.

Through this week are enjoying Flo Irwin and her company of five artists in their clever presentation, the most successful comedy playlet in vaudeville, "The Reformer." Miss Irwin enjoys the reputation of being the best comedienne on the vaudeville stage. Her playlet teams with the best in wit and humor, and portrays a situation simply irresistible in its comedy. Some of the other topnotch features on this week's bill are Fredlin, the "Wizard Musician"; the Ellmore Sisters, the laugh manufacturers; Edgar Allen & Co., the Four Readings, and other winners.

SNOW SHOVELERS IN NEW YORK. (Special from United Press.) New York, Jan. 14.—Five thousand men were put to work this morning by the street commissioner's department as the result of the second and heaviest snow of the season which came along last night. Commissioner "Bill" Edwards, ex-football tackle, had the shovels lying at 6:30 and by 7:00 the vestige of the storm remained downtown. Seven hundred people too breakfast with the city, having been taken in and sheltered by the different institutions last night and the Municipal Lodging House was overcrowded. Pier No. 36, was turned into a public dormitory.

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MECHANICAL FOREMEN ORGANIZE SOCIETY

Last night saw the perfection of a new organization for the advancement of mechanical knowledge and instruction which has the support of the manufacturers of this city. It is to be called the "Society of Mechanical Foremen and Assistants of the Foremen of the various concerns in the city." The organization was started about three months ago and now has between 40 and 50 members. Officers were elected last evening as follows: President, J. J. Minter, Bullard Machine Tool Co.; vice-president, Charles R. Behnke, Crane Bros.; secretary, H. H. Skelly, Smith & Deane Co.; treasurer, W. S. Bull, Armstrong Co.; finance committee, Oscar C. Stollhammer, American & British Co.; G. Newman, T. M. Co. Co., and F. W. Luebrink, Singer Mfg. Co.; board of governors, C. W. Burges, Union Typewriter Co., and Olof Nord, Locomobile Co., for three years; F. L. Cummings, B. M. T. Co., B. H. Botsford, A. & B. Co., for two years; George Lindley, A. & B. Co., and A. Lawson, Hotchkiss Co., for one year.

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TART COMMENTS.

The Machine, the "Barrel" and the Traitors All Against Hill. (Norwalk Hour.) Mr. Hill needed seven votes to secure the election. He lost twelve in Fairfield county through the kindness of Sidney E. Hawley and other county officials. Ought we not to be proud of Fairfield county and our county square? Had Fairfield county been square, Hill would have been elected. They tell us that "Sid" Hawley was against Hill because he was afraid of Hill, who that Allan Paige would be county boss. We would gladly print a complete list of Sheriff Hawley's excuses. They would make interesting reading.

Mr. Hill had the machine, the "barrel" and the "traitors" all against him, yet he only lost by seven votes. (Stamford Advocate.)

The 126 votes (for Branderge) won out—many of them the votes of intellectual hipflutters—mere powder for bosses' guns. (South Norwalk Sentinel.)

Many of the Republican leaders of Fairfield county are not reticent in appropriating the name of Sidney E. Hawley, a lion's share of the credit for the defeat of Congressman Ebenezer J. Hill for the United States Senatorship. They also claim the privilege of making a personal choice as to whom he will support, but insist that the office of sheriff was not created for the purpose of making a choice for the incumbent of the office. The opinion of many is that Sheriff Hawley has helped place Fairfield county in a disgraceful position. If this is so, it is up to the people to speak in the matter at some future time.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Mr. Chas. W. Cedarholm, 262 Beard street, Bridgeport, Conn., was a prize winner in the recent \$500 prize contest for new students of the illustration and cartoonist course of the Correspondence Institute of America, Scranton, Pa.

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